

of thousands of children and adults of all ages. This multifaceted institution has flourished academically, by student enrollment, by improved facilities, and economically.

In one of his first acts as college president, Jack Burd created the State's very first weekend college in 1986, enabling thousands of returning adult students an opportunity to advance their education and their career potential at Brenau. Just about every college and university in Georgia now emulates this educational model. In 1993, under Dr. Burd's leadership, Brenau College became Brenau University to more accurately reflect the comprehensive nature of the institution. Now graduate programs serve educators and business leaders in management, accounting, and healthcare, continuing education programs engage retired adults, and traditional and non-traditional scheduling formats serve a local, regional, and worldwide student population. And to even further extend the university's outreach, Dr. Burd created the Online College in 2001. This unique institution now includes the Women's College, the Evening and Weekend College, the Online College and Brenau Academy.

Jack Burd's greatest accomplishment may be that he was able to preserve the 125-year-old heritage and legacy of Brenau's original mission, which is the Women's College. At one time there were two-hundred plus women's colleges across the United States. Today there are only sixty-eight. According to the Women's College Coalition, the decline is despite evidence that proves going to a women's college greatly increases the chances that a woman will become a leader, that she will become a scientist or elected official and that she will keep her sights high. Brenau women are leaders in their chosen professions and in their communities.

Under Jack Burd's leadership, the arts assumed center stage at Brenau. The Permanent Art Collection, now one of the fastest growing collections of any college in the United States, boasts more than 1,200 pieces with such names as Renoir and Lichtenstein. Nationally and internationally acclaimed artists exhibit regularly at Brenau with works seldom seen outside New York or Los Angeles. School children by the thousands come to view exhibits and experience hands-on workshops hosted by the art & design department. The performing arts have also flourished under Burd's direction. He negotiated one of the first ever collaborations in higher education between a public institution, Gainesville College, and a private institution, Brenau. The merger, called the Gainesville Theatre Alliance, has brought accolades and honors, regionally and nationally, to all involved.

During Jack Burd's tenure the campus, located in downtown Gainesville, Georgia, has enlarged to include a new library, a new business and communication arts building, performing arts center, fitness center, tennis center, several student houses and apartment buildings. There has been extensive renovation of buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places—upgrading 19th century buildings for 21st century use. By preserving the university's heritage, Jack Burd brought stability to a neighborhood of Gainesville that is but two blocks from the center of town. Once a declining area with many structures in need of repair, Burd's endeavors and fundraising increased property values and the

safety and security of the area, and revitalized what is now a vibrant, desirable area.

Spare time is hard to come by for a president of a busy college. But, Jack found time to lend his considerable talents for leadership and organizational planning to myriad community service groups such as Northeast Georgia Medical Center Advisory Board, First United Methodist Church, the Women's College Coalition, the Gainesville/Hall County Chamber of Commerce, Crawford W. Long Museum, Gainesville Symphony and the Georgia Association of Colleges.

In conclusion, to list all of the Brenau's accomplishments under Dr. Burd's leadership would be laborious and impossible. But a few notable ones that occurred over the past nineteen years include: increasing enrollment by more than 60 percent to 2,300 students; adding 7 graduate level degrees; renovating, constructing, and acquiring 19 campus buildings; obtaining national accreditation; and improving the university's financial situation dramatically from a meager endowment of \$2.5 million in 1985 to more than \$50 million today. There is no operational deficit and the university's economic contribution to the region is estimated to be \$38 million.

How can one exaggerate the importance of what this man has given to northeast Georgia? He leads a private college that manages its finances wisely, contributes to the economic welfare of all, returns highly qualified people to the workforce, and augments our quality of life with cultural events that feed the soul.

Thank you Dr. John S. Burd for all you have given the citizens of northeast Georgia. Congratulations on your well-deserved retirement.

**RECOGNITION OF ASPHALT GREEN
AND THREE OF ITS OUT-
STANDING LEADERS, STEWART
B. CLIFFORD, AL ZESIGER, AND
BARRIE ZESIGER, ON THE
EVENING OF THE BIG SWIM BEN-
EFIT**

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2004

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the achievements of Asphalt Green and its honorees, Stewart B. Clifford, Al Zesiger and Barrie Zesiger, on the evening of the Big Swim Benefit and Asphalt Green's 30th anniversary celebration. Asphalt Green is a wonderful nonprofit organization that offers a wide array of health and fitness facilities to New York City residents. Our community is truly fortunate to have such an enjoyable and necessary resource.

The Asphalt Green facility began in 1974 as one of the last city-owned open spaces on the Upper East Side of Manhattan. By 1976, the Asphalt Green campus included a one-and-a-half acre park, gardens and a wading pool, all of which were available for public use free of charge. Later that year, Stewart B. Clifford assisted the organization's successful efforts to persuade the City to designate the asphalt plant adjacent to the organization's park (Asphalt Green's namesake) as a New York City landmark and to convert the plant into a multi-use community center. In 1984, the former

plant was renamed the George and Annette Murphy Center, in honor of the organization's founder, Dr. George Murphy.

The next phase in Asphalt Green's development began when Dr. Murphy enlisted the help of two of this evening's honorees, Al and Barrie Zesiger, to add an Olympic-sized swimming pool to Asphalt Green's already extensive facilities. The pool, along with a full-service sports and fitness complex, opened in 1993. These facilities have been of tremendous benefit to New Yorkers—and not just on hot summer days. Indeed, water exercise classes at the pool are available year-round, and are particularly well-suited to the fitness needs of the elderly, who are susceptible to the joint and muscle stresses associated with dry-land exercise. In all, more than 42,000 New Yorkers use Asphalt Green's facilities each year.

This evening, Asphalt Green will hold its annual Big Swim benefit, which will raise funds for the organization's Waterproofing program, a joint venture with the New York City Public School District to teach underprivileged children how to swim. Swimming ability is strongly linked with both socio-economic status and race: only 14 percent of those with annual incomes under \$10,000 know how to swim, and the rate of drowning among African-Americans is significantly higher than that of other ethnic groups. The Waterproofing program is notable not only because it encourages a lifetime of fitness, but also because it helps to save lives.

The foregoing would not have been possible without Al and Barrie Zesiger's dedication to public service and financial support, and the leadership of Stewart B. Clifford, a member of Asphalt Green's Board for more than twenty years. All three of these great citizens of New York will be honored at this evening's benefit.

Mr. Speaker, I request that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to this fine organization and its honorees, Al and Barrie Zesiger and Stewart B. Clifford.

TRIBUTE TO FREDDY FENDER

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2004

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an American patriot, cultural icon, and leader in our South Texas community: Freddy Fender, an accomplished artist whose appeal is ageless. Freddy proved his everlasting influence in 2002 when he won the Grammy for Best Latin Pop Album and again this year, as the Texas Folklife Resources celebrated 50 years of Freddy's music with a concert as part of its Folk Masters series on Saturday, April 10, 2004, at the Paramount Theatre in Austin, Texas.

A San Benito, Texas, native and legendary performer, Freddy was born Baldemar Huerta. He began his career as teenager recording popular English language songs in Spanish that found an audience in Mexico and Latin America in the 1950s. In the 1960's his career took off in the United States with the hit, "Wasted Days and Wasted Nights."

Those wild, early days eventually put him on more disciplined path. He went back to school and worked as a mechanic, but he continued singing.

His number one hit, "Before the Next Tear-drop Falls," was his re-entry into popular culture. That album went multi-platinum, and Fender won best male artist of 1976. In the latter part of the century, he spread his wings, expanded upon his talent and worked with Robert Redford in the movie *The Milagro Beanfield War* and other non-traditional projects.

He found his stride, working in different parts of the entertainment industry. But he never strayed far from the bounds of music, working with The Texas Tornados.

Freddy and his family have been tested in the fires of a near-death experience. After a protracted illness, Freddy received a kidney from his daughter, cheating death, and still singing and writing his songs.

Freddy's Grammy Award-winning album in 2002 captured the yearning for a simple, romantic return to youth. The cover has a 4-year-old Baldemar Huerta dressed as a cowboy astride a painted pony. "La Musica de Baldemar Huerta" is 10 boleros with little accompaniment. Boleros are poignant ballads generally featuring sophisticated guitar picking and sensual rhythms.

The biggest thing for which Freddy is known in South Texas is his generosity of spirit in establishing a scholarship fund for average students. An average student himself, and an avowed troublemaker in his youth, he has a unique understanding of the challenges before a young person who has either made a mistake, made only average grades, or both.

I ask the House of Representatives to join me—and the Texas Folklife Resources—in honoring Freddy Fender a great American treasure, a South Texan, a friend, and lifelong cultural icon in North American music.

HONORING MISSISSIPPI STATE'S BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2004

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, it has been four decades since Mississippi State University stood atop the Southeastern Conference as the undisputed solitary men's basketball champion. The Bulldogs, under the leadership of Coach Rick Stansbury—the Associated Press SEC Coach of the Year—did so this year with a 25–2 regular season record and a 14–2 record in the SEC that propelled them into the top five ranking in the national AP poll.

It was the 1962–1963 season when MSU won a previous solitary SEC championship. Six head coaches and 41 years later, the Bulldogs did it again in a nail-biting come-from-behind victory over the Alabama Crimson Tide. The Bulldogs were down in the second half by 18 points against the University of Alabama, one of two teams to defeat MSU during the regular season. During the last second, under intense defensive pressure, senior All-SEC guard Timmy Bowers made a 14-foot jump shot to tie the game, sending it into overtime. Then again, in the final second of overtime, Bowers made another jumper to earn a Bulldog victory of 82–81.

MSU has had champion basketball teams in the past, some shared, all notable.

Season, Record, SEC, Notable:

1958–59, 24–1, 13–1, opened SEC play with only loss to Auburn.

1960–61, 19–8, 11–3, lost three games only by a combined 12 points.

1961–62, 24–1, 13–1, shared title with Kentucky, only loss to Vanderbilt.

1962–63, 22–5, 12–2, lost to Loyola (Chicago) in NCAA Mideast regional.

1990–91, 20–9, 13–5, shared title with LSU; lost to Eastern Michigan in NCAA East regional.

2003–04, 25–2, 14–2, became fourth SEC team to win all eight road league games; lost to Xavier in NCAA second round.

The future looks bold for the Maroon and White. Seniors Timmy Bowers and versatile Branden Vincent will be missed, and though the NBA is courting junior center Lawrence Roberts (the reigning SEC Player of the Year), MSU will field a solid team in 2005. Juniors Shane Power and Winsome Frazier, senior Marcus Campbell, and sophomore Gary Ervin all look to be explosive scorers next year on the court and across the conference. Added to these quality players are sophomore center Wesley Morgan and freshman guard Dietric Slater plus Ontario Harper, a medical red shirt, as well as three top signees: Charles Rhodes from Lanier High School in Jackson, Mississippi; Jerrell Houston from Memphis, Tennessee; and Jamall Edmondson from Meridian Community College.

This year, Mississippi State earned the second seed position in the NCAA Basketball Tournament Atlanta Regional. While they were eliminated by Xavier during the second round of play, the Bulldogs have played a terrific season. An SEC title, a final record of 26–4 and 14–2 in the SEC, undefeated during regular season on the road; these have stirred a fire among MSU fans that will continue to burn into next year.

The pride of the Bulldogs extends not just from Starkville, home of Mississippi State University, but across the state. I hope Congress will join me in congratulating this team and Coach Stansbury—wishing them all the best fortune in the future both personally, and as representatives of MSU.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KATHERINE HARRIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2004

Ms. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, on March 31, 2004 during rollcall vote No. 104 on H. Res. 581, I was unavailable for the vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

U.S.-CHINA MARITIME RELATIONS AND THE EMERGENCY OF COSCO

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2004

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend the Federal Maritime Commission for its actions on March 31 in granting the petitions of three Chinese maritime carriers to provide relief from the 30-day waiting requirement for reduction of tariff rates of the Con-

trolled Carrier Act. These carriers will now be able to make rate changes within 24 hours, which is the current market standard for all shippers.

These recent FMC actions, along with the formal signing of the U.S.-China Maritime Agreement in February, signal that the commitment made by both nations to develop closer maritime and commercial relations and to open markets is closer to becoming a reality. The increased economic cooperation between the United States and China is becoming more tangible, as evidenced by the fact that a business in my district made its first ever shipment to China this year.

Mr. Speaker, one of the Chinese carriers whose petition was recently granted by the FMC is the China Ocean Shipping Company (COSCO), which played an important role in supporting the U.S.-China Maritime Agreement. COSCO will soon celebrate the 25th anniversary of the maiden voyage of its first ship in the United States in 1979, an event which marked the re-establishment of U.S.-China trade relations for the first time in 30 years. COSCO was a leader at that time and continues to lead today.

COSCO has transformed itself to become a leading global shipper that operates under market rules. Recently, COSCO's CEO, Captain Wei Jiafu, gave the keynote address at the Trans-Pacific Maritime Conference in Long Beach, California. Captain Wei and COSCO were profiled in a cover story by the *Journal of Commerce* that explained COSCO's goals to expand services and eventually to be publicly listed on the New York Stock Exchange. Mr. Speaker, in order to share more information with my colleagues about COSCO's role in supporting trade with the U.S. and globally, I would like to submit the March 22 *Journal of Commerce* cover story for the RECORD.

(From the *Journal of Commerce*, Mar. 22, 2004)

COSCO SETS ITS COURSE

(By Peter T. Leach)

Capt. Wei Jiafu is a man who knows where he's going. He should; he's a former deck officer who now is president and chief executive of China Ocean Shipping (Group), China's largest ocean carrier. Wei is what Gilbert and Sullivan might call the model of a modern capitalist, were it not for the fact that COSCO is owned by the avowedly communist state.

As chief executive since 1998, Wei is steering a capitalist course for COSCO that is designed to accomplish three long-term goals, which he discussed in an interview before *The Journal of Commerce's* 4th annual Trans-Pacific Maritime Conference this month in Long Beach, Calif. Wei said he aims to make COSCO one of the top five shipping companies in the world by doubling the size of its container fleet in the next four years; to expand COSCO's logistics business to provide more revenue balance; and to list the company's stock on the New York Stock Exchange.

Wei added a fourth goal last week that is raising questions in the industry. In his keynote address to the conference, he called for the establishment of "a long-term stable development mechanism" based on fair regulation, cooperation among carriers, and cooperation among carriers, shippers, terminal operators and service providers.

The fact that his remarks attracted questions from shippers and carriers such as, "What did he mean?" indicates the prominence that COSCO has attained in the six